

Virginia's Tributary Strategies - 2004

Report to the General Assembly from the Secretary of Natural Resources



The following is summary of actions that were taken in 2004 to advance the implementation of Virginia's Tributary Strategies. For complete information on the documents, actions and issues addressed here, please visit

<http://www.naturalresources.virginia.gov> and
<http://www.deq.virginia.gov/bay/multi.html>

January – April 2004: Tributary teams composed on local stakeholders and state agency staff complete development of draft strategies for the Shenandoah/Potomac, Rappahannock, York, James and Eastern Shore.

March 2004: The Virginia General Assembly adopts legislation proposed by the Governor to consolidate and expand state stormwater management programs. Implementation begins following the July 1, 2004 effective date of the legislation.

April 2004: Public Review Drafts of Tributary Strategies for the Potomac/Shenandoah, Rappahannock, York, James and Eastern Shore river basins are released by Secretary Murphy.

April 2004: Public meetings are held in each river basin to present the public review drafts and take comments.

April – May 2004: Public Comment period for draft strategies.

May 2004: Adopted biennial budget contains \$15 million in each year of the biennium for the Water Quality Improvement Fund which is the principle funding mechanism for practices proposed in the tributary strategies.

June 2004: The Virginia State Water Control Board approves for public comment new water quality standards regulations for tidal waters based on criteria published by the United States Environmental Protection Agency. The criteria establish living resource based standards for dissolved oxygen, chlorophyll “a” and water clarity and in effect define the conditions necessary for a “clean” bay.

August 2004: Secretary Murphy announces his policy for point source revisions to the tributary strategies that establish loading caps for significant wastewater treatment facilities based on stringent treatment at design flow. He also addresses issues regarding the loading allocations for the York and James that will be finalized upon adoption of the water quality standards.

August 2004: Governor Warner announces end of year surplus and contribution to Water Quality Improvement Fund of \$32.4 million dollars to be made at the 2005 session of the General Assembly.

August 2004: Based on the point source policy articulated by Secretary Murphy the State Water Control Board approved for public comment two regulations, the first establishes loading allocations for “significant” waste water and industrial facilities (Water Quality Management Planning regulation) and the second proposes a technology based standard that establishes minimum levels of treatment and specific requirements for “limit of technology” at new and expanding facilities (Revisions to Nutrient Enriched Waters Policy).

September 2004: Retreat held by Senate Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources and the House Committee on Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources to hear full briefing on water quality and proposed nutrient reductions. Presentations were made by interested private organizations, local governments, research institutions, the Secretary of Natural Resources, the Department of Environmental Quality and the Department of Conservation and Recreation.

November – December 2004: Public hearings held on proposed water quality standards.

December 2003: Governor Warner announces \$30 million contribution to the Water Quality Improvement Fund as part of his amendments to the biennial budget.